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BLAZE IN ARTIST'S HOME STARTED BY DAUGHTER'S CIGARET

U. S. AWAITS MOVE BY EUROPE; WON'T TAKE INITIATIVE

Will Not Call Economic Conference, as It Did Disarmament Parley.

HAS NO PLAN TO URGE.

No Intention of Setting a Program That Might Commit This Country.

By David Lawrence.
(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 (Copy-right).—When the Allied Premier meet in Paris, on Jan. 2, they will in all probability invite the United States Government to help solve the economic situation of Europe. Possibly an American diplomatic representative may be summoned to attend the meeting.

But it is becoming more and more apparent that the initiative must come from European Governments as the United States does not want to be placed in the position of assuming responsibility for the execution of its suggestions, nor does it want to be forced into the position of having tried to dictate to Europe.

This explains to some extent the vehemence of Secretary Hughes in denying the story that a commission of American business men were to act with the unofficial sanction of the American Government in trying to fix the amount of German indemnity. Mr. Hughes was perturbed to find, because some of the press reports took his statement as the usual "diplomatic denial."

The plan to have a commission of American business men co-operate in fixing the sum that Germany can pay has many sponsors here, and business men of prominence are trying to get this Government and European Governments to assent to it, but the Department of State is not connected with the proposal, either officially or unofficially, any more than it was with J. P. Morgan's visit to Paris last June and the meetings of the International Bankers' Committee. It is an interested onlooker, but not a promoter of these plans.

The truth is, the United States Government is feeling its way. Thus far it has not done any more than make plain informally to the European Governments that it stands ready to help them with its influence and advice whenever it shall be sought. This in itself is a step forward, because Europe has been clamoring for three years for American help and has pointed to the number of invitations which have gone unaccepted.

What America wants Europe to understand now is that the United States will sit at the councils of Europe and discuss these matters. The thought of an International Economic Conference still is in the minds of many Governments, but it may be said at this stage of the proceedings that the United States will not call it. There are certain obligations imposed on the host to lay down a program and to set forth what can be done by the nation calling the conference.

An illustration of this was the Naval Armament Conference a year ago.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Where to Look for Real Estate Section

Those who aim to buy a house or to purchase land upon which to build will find a great fund of timely information in The Sunday World "Real Estate" ads.

24,651 "World Real Estate" and "To Let" ads. Last month 5,530 more than corresponding month last year.

SUNDAY WORLD
"REAL ESTATE" ADVS.

100,000 City Employees Saved From Layoff; Craig Finds a Way; City Will Hold Up Big Creditors

Comptroller Hero of Estimate Board Debate on Vacation for Municipal Workers to Repay Bank Tax Court Overruled.

As the Board of Estimate, in solemn secret session, talked today of shutting down city departments to raise \$5,000,000 due before New Year's day, and laying off a good part of 100,000 municipal employees, Comptroller Craig came to the rescue in the last act like the handsome hero who lifts the mortgage on the old farm.

Mayor Hylan had lain awake nights thinking about that \$5,000,000. He blamed it on the subsidized press, the Rockefellers, the Gary school system and every other influence, but he could not find a way to raise the money without laying off commissioners right and left and telling 100,000 employees they could have a vacation until Jan. 1, 1923—A. Y. O. E. (at your own expense).

This \$5,000,000 represents the 1922 part of the \$20,000,000 which must be restored to national banks by the city. The money was collected from the banks as a tax and the Court of Appeals has decided that the law under which the money was collected is unconstitutional.

Every mental power house in the Estimate Board had functioned at its highest pressure during today's secret session, but not a spark of relief for the 100,000 city employees came forth. Mayor Hylan sat with bowed head at the thought of David Hirschfeld and others being docked several days' pay just because of the mere constitutionality of a law.

"Isn't it simply awful?" asked Mayor Hylan, in a voice that penetrated even the locked mahogany doors.

"Let me think!" said Comptroller Craig.

"Go ahead—go to it!" chorused the remaining members. "We're all in." The Comptroller's solution was this: There are many big creditors of the city. Their bills, due between now and Jan. 1, must be held up for a little while after Jan. 1. Although the deficit for this year is \$5,000,000, it will be necessary to raise only about \$2,000,000 between now and Jan. 1, under the Craig scheme, in order to save city employees from an enforced vacation. The beginning of the new year would find new sources of revenue.

It was made clear that the city is in no way responsible for the \$20,000,000 deficit, which is due solely to the unconstitutionality of a law which was thought to be constitutional.

"We don't want to create any impression that we found money that didn't heretofore exist," said the Comptroller. "To carry on the city's activities without laying off the police and other city employees, whom we have a right to suspend, the city transferred funds from which people who have claims against the city are paid."

In open session following the executive meeting, Mayor Hylan said the city officials had gravely considered the possibility of suspending operation in all city departments and the laying off of employees for three or four days at the end of this year.

"If this had been done," Mayor Hylan stated, "the City Administration would have ceased for three or four days in order to make up the deficit."

"While we were debating what could be done," continued the Mayor, "Comptroller Craig came to our rescue and found sufficient funds to tide us over into the next year. But we don't know what we're going to do next year unless some legislation is enacted to relieve us."

"The result of this tax decision is that close to \$10,000,000 will have to go into the 1924 budget to take care of the deficit. The taxpayers will have to pay that."

The Comptroller explained that \$10,000,000 already collected from the banks for 1923 and 1924 would have to be refunded, while \$10,000,000 anticipated in the 1923 budget would have to be otherwise met.

"The banks won't pay this money," said Craig. "Most likely it will come out of the taxpayers' pockets."

**HOME OF OFFICIAL
OF FREE STATE BOMBED**

Then Set on Fire and Destroyed. Was Not Occupied.

DUBLIN, Dec. 22.—The home of Patrick Sheehan, Under-Secretary in the Home Office, was destroyed by bombs and incendiary fire during the night.

UPSHAW WILL NAME BIG OFFICIALS WHO BUY ILLICIT BOOZE

Says He Has List and Will Reveal It to Congress at Proper Time.

WHITE HOUSE IS DRY.

Other Public Buildings at Capital Busy Marts for Drones of Bootleggers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Representative Uphaw, Georgia, today threatened to name State and Federal officials who, according to his information, are violating the Prohibition Law, by patronizing bootleggers.

The Congressman recently started Washington by claiming that large numbers of public officials get liquor, while a lot of "poor devils" can't. He called on all public officials to take an oath to abstain from violating the law, and to-day, just before leaving for his home in Georgia, warned that he intended to force them to do it.

"I am not through with them yet, not by a long shot," Uphaw said. "Of course, it would be foolish for me to publish at the moment the information in my hands, but you may say that I am not going to back down one inch. I am ready to stand squarely behind my statements."

"As a matter of fact, the news has just reached me that Representative Hill of Maryland, that wettest of the wets, is preparing to call upon me on the floor of the House to produce names and dates."

"When I come back to Washington after the holidays, I will be ready for business. Then I will dare any man to call my hand. I fought the liquor curse when it was recognized and respected by law, and now that it has been officially stamped in its true light, I most certainly am not going to back down."

"Too many of these officials are striking a grandiose posture and calling upon the people with tears in their eyes to respect and honor the laws of our Nation, and then going out the back way and buying blindfold, bootleg liquor for their personal consumption. Is the law of our land to be so slighted as to make this a rich man's Prohibition—so as to allow the wealthy and the office-holder to shield his hip pocket with ready cash, a pious hand and an oily tongue."

Just before leaving Washington Representative Uphaw addressed a letter to President Harding urging the issuance of a Christmas proclamation calling upon the people—especially the officials—to observe total abstinence for the common good.

"I was very glad," Representative Hill of Maryland said, "that Mr. Uphaw made the wholesale charges of violating the Volstead act against members of Congress, members of the Cabinet and Senators and all members in authority. On an appropriate occasion I intend on the floor to ask him to produce from the Prohibition Department the evidence with which to back up his charges."

**BERLIN ISSUES DENIAL
OF REPARATIONS STORY**

BERLIN, Dec. 22 (Associated Press).—It was officially denied today that Chancellor Cuno or any other Government official had suggested the appointment of an American Commission to investigate Germany's economic condition.

**BIG BLOW COMING NORTH ALONG
JERSEY COAST.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—A storm of unusual intensity now centered off Cape Hatteras will sweep the Middle Atlantic and New England coasts, the Weather Bureau announced today. The wind is blowing 45 miles an hour off Hatteras. The storm is expected to strike the New Jersey, and the New England coasts late tonight. Storm warnings were ordered displayed today from the Virginia Capes to Atlantic City.

225 Men's Winter Overcoats & Suits, \$12.75. The HON CLOTHING CORNER, Broadway, 2nd Floor, 2nd St. (near 14th St.) will sell to-day and Saturday our 225 Men's and Young Men's Winter Overcoats & Suits in the season's newest shades of blue, brown, herringbone and heather mixtures, single and double breasted models, all sizes. Sold elsewhere at \$25. Our Special Price for to-day and Saturday, \$12.75 and \$15.35. Over 1000 to select from.

Artist's Daughter, Smoking Cigaret Near Window, Starts Fire in Home Near Fifth Avenue

Curtain Ignites as Miss Ann Frazier Puffs—Alarm Sent In But She And Maid Extinguish Blaze and Escape Injury.

Frazier was smoking a cigarette this afternoon in front of a fire story window at her home, No. 57 West 58th Street, when a puff of breeze whirled the lace curtain against her, and almost instantly there was a blaze.

After losing a few seconds in a vain effort to put it out she tore the curtain down, but not until the wood-work above had caught fire. The curtain, falling over an upholstered chair, set fire to that, and smoke was pouring from the window. It was observed from the street and an alarm turned in.

Miss Frazier and her maid got a bucket of water and mop and fought frantically for several minutes, with the result that the fire was out by the time the apparatus arrived. Miss Frazier is a daughter of Kenneth Frazier, the artist. She was affected slightly by the smoke that she breathed.

SOUTHMAYD WILL VALID; DISPOSES OF \$3,000,000 ESTATE

Verdict Against Relatives Who Fought Spinster's Huge Bequests to Charity.

After discussing the evidence for three hours the jury which has been hearing evidence in the contest of the will of Emily F. Southmayd found a verdict sustaining the will, disposing of her \$3,000,000 estate.

The contest, instituted by a nephew, East Orange, N. J., and his three sisters, has occupied the attention of Surrogate James A. Foley and a special jury for six weeks.

Edmund L. Mooney, counsel for the contestants, attempted to prove through a host of friends, relatives and acquaintances of the aged spinster that she was of unsound mind when she executed her will shortly before her death in 1921, when she was ninety-one years old.

Stimmed, counsel for the executors, produced fully as many intimates of the decedent who testified they never noted any actions on her part to show that she was anything but wholly rational and in complete command of all her faculties.

One witness, a cousin and companion, testified that Miss Southmayd had expressed love and affection for her pastor, Bishop Charles L. Slatton, former rector of Grace Church, and had a delusion that the minister was going to marry her. This witness also testified that Miss Southmayd said "she couldn't help it if men fell in love with me."

Miss Southmayd left the bulk of her estate to religious and charitable institutions, while the contesting relatives received only minor bequests and small gifts of personal effects and family heirlooms.

The sum of \$100,000 was bequeathed to each of the rectors and wardens of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, Roosevelt Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, the Society of New York Hospital and the Children's Aid Society. To six other institutions she left gifts of \$50,000 each and bequeathed \$25,000 to each of thirteen additional charities.

She left her residuary estate, estimated at \$1,500,000 to be distributed equally among Grace Church, the Children's Aid Society, Roosevelt Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital and the Society of New York Hospital.

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DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF O'HARA, 12 OTHERS HURT AS WALL FALLS IN BROOKLYN BLAZE

Veteran Taken Unconscious From Debris—Over Fifty Overcome by Smoke—Streets in Darkness as Four-Alarm Blaze Sweeps Williamsburg Section.

Deputy Chief John O'Hara was on the sidewalk in front of the burning Auto Baby Carriage Company's factory at Nos. 189-195 Harrison Avenue, Williamsburg, at 4 o'clock this morning. He was ordering aid for the men who were on the roof pouring streams into surrounding frame tenements to which the flames had spread.

There was a shout of warning from other firemen and the frightened persons who were being herded back to safety. O'Hara looked up. The wall was bulging out over him. He leaped to a window opening, quick as a cat, instinctively seeking the protection of the arch and estimating that even though the whole wall fell it would pass over him.

The window frame splintered under the pressure and collapsed, pinning the Deputy Chief to the ledge. At the same time the roof sagged down without support, became a chute through which the firemen on the roof were tumbled headlong into the street.

Assistant Chief Joseph B. Martin, who had arrived in answer to a fourth alarm in time to see O'Hara knocked down, went into the wreck with two police and brought him out. O'Hara was unconscious.

Five of the tenements in the block were partly burned and made untenable by water. For the time being over 1,000 persons were driven from their homes. Hundreds of them were sheltered in Williamsburg fire houses and police stations.

Headed Deputy Chief O'Hara, 12 other firemen were taken to hospitals. Chief O'Hara was quite seriously injured. His spine was injured; his face was deeply cut and he was so bruised all over his body that he is believed to have concealed injuries which will be explored by the X-ray.

Peter Scanlon of Engine No. 211 was even more injured than O'Hara. At first thought by the surgeons to have suffered a slight concussion of the brain, it was learned later that his skull was fractured and that he has small chance for life. His left wrist and left ankle are broken.

Lieut. John Fitzsimmons had his right arm dislocated and he was badly bruised. Others in St. Catherine's Hospital—where they are resting easily—are:

Charles Markey, Engine No. 211, bruises of the neck, back sprained. William Adams, Engine No. 211, left thigh believed broken.

In Both Moses Hospital are: Capt. Henry E. Sullivan, Truck No. 102, bruises of face, hip dislocated. Oliver G. Dempsey, Truck No. 102, back sprained.

Edwin C. Cronin, Truck No. 2, cuts and bruises of face and body. Arthur Hinders, Truck No. 102, right wrist and shoulder sprained. John Vlanka, Truck No. 102, scalp cut and hip injured.

Herman Schmidt, Truck No. 102, was able to leave the hospital after his cuts had been treated. At Cumberland Street Hospital are: Capt. John Westrick of Engine No. 211, back injured and severe body bruises.

Firemen searched for an hour for three men of Engine No. 211, who were reported missing, and announced they had all been accounted for.

All the available ambulances and police reserves in the Eastern District section were summoned to the scene. The great menace of the flames was that every building in the square block is of frame construction and fifty or sixty years old.

Police Chief Daniel Mills of the City Street Station discovered the fire and by the time he had returned after sending in an alarm the flames had

CHRISTMAS RELEASE FOR IRISH REPUBLICANS WHO SIGN ALLEGIANCE

Large Number in Mountjoy Prison Accept Free State—No Holiday for Others.

DUBLIN, Dec. 22 (Associated Press).—A large number of the Irish Republicans held prisoner in Mountjoy Prison will, it is understood, be released at Christmas, having signed a declaration of allegiance to the Free State.

For the remainder no holiday

Justice Morris, looking over the litigants gathered in the Trial Term of the Municipal Court in the Bronx this afternoon, noted the glowering and anxious faces of a score of landlords and tenants and ordered Clerk Thomas Kiernan to stop calling the calendar.